

GRAUSTARK

279

1971EB, 1971EC, 1971EE, 1972A, 1972E

2 December 1972

1971EB "Spring 1909"

FRENCH PREPARE TO DEFEND HOMELAND

ENGLAND (Birsan): F Ber-Prus; F Bal-Prus; A Kic-Mun; A Mos S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A War-Ukr; A Lon-Bol; F Nth S A Lon-Bol; F Eng C A Lon-Bol; F Iri S F Eng; F Bol-Hol; F Hol-Hol; F St.P(n.c.) holds; F Nat S F Iri.

FRANCE (Holcombe): F Wes-Tyr; F Mid-Wes; F Bro-Mid; A Pic-Bro; A Bur-Mar; A Tyr-Pic; A Mun-Bur; F Ion holds.

ITALY (Brooks): F Ank-Bla; F Ven S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri; F Acg-Ion; A Rom S F Ven.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Drakert): A Grc S F Bul(s.c.); F Bul(s.c.) S A Grc; A Scr-Rum; A Bud S A Scr-Rum; A War holds; A Tri-Tyr; A Vic S A Tri-Tyr.

RUSSIA (O'Neil): No moves received. A Sev holds; A Rum dislodged and annihilated.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1972.

Mark Thomas, the stand-by, is asked to send in "Fall 1909" moves for Russia; see GRAUSTARK #277 for his address.

1972A "Winter 1907"

FRANCE (Powell): No removal received. Gamesmaster removes the army dislodged from Spain, for which no removal was received.

GERMANY (Huddleston): Builds A Ber.

ITALY (Tretick): No removal received.

Gamesmaster removes F Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Honig): Retreats A Tri-Tyr; removes A Bud.

TURKEY (Murray): Builds A Ank, F Smy. The deadline for "Spring 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1972.

(continued in next column)

1971EC "Spring 1909"

ENGLAND SEIZES MEDITERRANEAN CONTROL

ENGLAND (Lipton): A Edi-Nwy; F Nth C A Edi-Nwy; A Mos-Sev; F Lon-Eng; F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; F Wes S F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo; F Mid-Naf; F Adr-Ion; F Tun S F Adr-Ion; A Gas-Spa; A Mar S A Gas-Spa; A Alexandria-Palestine.

FRANCE (Nozik): No move received; A Por holds.

GERMANY (Berman): A Bur-Ruh; A Tyr-Boh; A Mun S A Tyr-Boh; A Pic-Tus; A War-Gal; A Sil S A War-Gal; A Ukr-Sev; F Kic-Ber.

ITALY (Warden): No moves received. A Smy, F Nap, A Ven, F Tus, & A Grc hold; F Lyo & F Ion dislodged and annihilated.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bell): F Acg-Ion; A Tri S A Boh-Tyr; A Boh-Tyr; A Vic S A Tri; A Gal S RUSSIAN A Rum-Ukr.

RUSSIA (Barents): A Ukr S A Sev ((sic; no such unit exists)); A Sev S A Ukr; A Rum not ordered, holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. Austria-Hungary retreats A Gal-Bud, since the possibility that the unit will be removed instead is negligible. The deadline for "Fall 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1972. John Leeder, the stand-by, is asked to send in "Fall 1909" moves for Italy; see GRAUSTARK #277 for his address. Anybody who wants to may send in stand-by moves for France (except of course for other players); the first set received will be used. Some press releases begin on p. 5; the rest will be postponed to the next issue.

(continued from last column)

John Carroll is asked to send in stand-by moves for France, and David Ayres for Italy; their address may be found in GRAUSTARK #277.

1972E

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"Spring 1908"

ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE FORCES HABSBURGS OUT OF MUNICH

ENGLAND (Abbott): A St!P holds; F Nwy S A St!P; A Ber-Mun; F Kie-Ber; F Bal S F Kie-Ber; F Hol-Kie; A Bel-Ruh; A Lon-Bel; F Eng C A Lon-Bel; F Tun-Ion; F Tyr S F Tun-Ion; F Wes S F Tyr.

FRANCE (Lipson): A Bur S ENGLISH A Ber-Mun; A Pie-Tyr; A Mar-Tus; F Lyo C A Mar-Tus; A Par-Gas.

ITALY (Ricci): A Rom S F Nap; F Nap S A Rom.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Prosnitz): A Vic-Boh; A Rum-Gal; A Pru-Ber; A Mun-Ruh; A Tri-Ven; A Tyr S A Tri-Ven; A Ven-Tus; F Gro S TURKISH F Aeg-Ion.

TURKEY (Osmanson): F Adr S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri-Ven; F Ion-Nap; F Aeg-Ion; F Apu S F Ion-Nap; A Arm-Sev; A War-Sil; A Mos holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Austro-Hungarian A Mun is dislodged and annihilated. The deadline for "Fall 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1972.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

A new postal Diplomacy magazine came in the mail last week. This is not a new occurrence, but the particular 'zine is. It is called Stuttgart Sentinel, and is published by one David Staples of Fargo, North Dakota. Staples describes himself as "Kriegist of 'Der Stuttgart Empire'" and also president of his high school.

Although this is the first copy of the 'zine that I've seen or heard of, it is designated as "Nr. 1, Vol. 7" - whatever that may mean. He also announces it as "America's only Conservative Conflict simulation-Diplomacy organization per (illegible) publication". And he means it, too; he's so far right that he even stapled the 'zine in the upper right-hand corner.

The publication is dittographed in four colors - an aberration which all amateur publishers pass through at one stage or another, before they discover mimeography or get to rip off a computer outprinter. Furthermore, Staples fancies himself as a game designer. In this issue, dated 14 October 1972, he presents a game called "Hit Hanoi", in which he puts forward a game plan for bombing the capital of Vietnam - an assault in which he apparently thinks the US government has been remiss. Among other things he promises "a 'Buckley' style piece of good American rightist propaganda". (I wonder whether this will include an alleviation of the laws on marijuana, a recent Buckley project. Also, Dollar Bill Buckley cannot stomach the John Birch Society, a group towards which Staples seems fairly well disposed.)

There is the usual beginner's criticism of the Diplomacy rules as "unrealistic", though the multiple double-cross system of Diplomacy is a perfect simulation of actual international relations. He also boosts Gary Allen's singularly stupid book None Dare Call It Conspiracy, which the Birchers are currently selling as part of their campaign against, presumably, the late President Eisenhower and other Communists. The principal purpose of Stuttgart Sentinel (or "SS", as it may as well be called) is "to oppose all forms of tyranny...especially Communism and bring about their destruction". Since Staples is in favor of war, a greater tyranny than any political ideology, it is obvious that he has no moral objections to tyranny. And he is trying to represent himself as the sole pro-war member of our hobby in a sea of Pacifists - as if we were not already overrun by such disgusting war-lovers as John Smytho, Rod Walker, James Massar, Jim Dygert, Brian Libby, Bill Linden, Ed Halle, Peter Rosamilia, and such slime. Needless to say, he endorses the Bircher-Wallaceite presidential candidate Schmitz.

1971EE

"Spring 1909"

RUSSIANS AT CHANNEL!

ENGLAND (Trtek): A Ruh-Bur; F Eng-Bre; F Nat-Mid; F Nrg-Nwy; F Nth S F Nrg-Nwy.

FRANCE (Hendry): F Por holds.

GERMANY (Tesser): A Par holds.

ITALY (Horton): F Mid S A Bro; F Was S F Mid; A Gas-Par; A Bro S A Gas-Par; A Rom, F Gre, F Lyo, F Spa(s.c.), F Naf, & A Mar hold.

RUSSIA (P. Wood): F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Bar & A Fin S F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Nwy-Swe; A Swe-Den; F Den-Hol; A Kie-Hol; A Ber-Kie; A Bur-Pic; A Mun-Bur; A Sil-Mun; A War-Sil; A Mos-St.P; A Sev-Mos; F Con-Acg; A Ank-Con.

TURKEY (Drakert): F Smy holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1972.

It seems likely that the next move will be the last in this game. Players should check the listing below to find out when their subscriptions expire. Several players who were already subscribers when 1971EE began will have their subscriptions extended past #280 by the number of issues they had coming when the game began.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The paid subscriptions of the following players expire with the indicated issues. Renewals are 8 issues for \$1.00.

279 - Richard Miller	285 - David Johnson	293 - Harry Drews
280 - Donald Horton	Ted McDonald	Gerald A. McGowin
Derek Nelson	George Schelz	294 - Mike & Betsy Childers
281 - Robert L. Eisen	Donald E. Stehle	Greg Greer
Laurence A. Moran	Paul Wood	Tony Pandin
Andrew J. Weill	286 - David G. Cressey	295 - Kenneth Scher
Mike Wise	Jim Fish	Bradley W. Smith
282 - Margot Adler	E. C. Ostermeyer	296 - Stephen Marsland
Bruce Chin	Ed Rack	Charles Vest
William Jeffries	Rick Stuart	299 - Charles Hidalgo
Robert Maloney	Gary Tesser	302 - Philip M. Cohen
John P. McKeon	George Wells	303 - Chris Pearson
Jerry Paulson	287 - Roger Hanson	304 - David Ayres
Bern Schwartz	Jerry Model	308 - John Carroll
283 - Chic Hilliker	288 - R. D. Christian	309 - Pete Comber
Eric Verheiden	John Hendry	311 - David Kristol
284 - Yale Edeiken	Dick Trtek	Wayne Lanham
Douglas Reif	289 - Michael Monahan	317 - Robert E. Warren
285 - William Atteberry	291 - Kathryn Passenheim	322 - Mark A. Thomas

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

John Hendry, 17 Price Road, Peabody, Mass. 01960 announces that the MIT Strategic Games Society will hold its First Annual Winter Wargame Convention on Saturday 13 January 1973, on the MIT campus. The cost is \$2 in advance or \$3 at the door. For further information write MITS GS, Box 115, 3 Ames St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139; ATTN: WCI.

The last GRAUSTARK was mailed out to non-players several days after the deadline, in case you were wondering. Non-players who subscribe to both GRAUSTARK and FREEDONIA get them by 3rd-class mail.

THE ENGLISH CONNECTION

Only seven issues of Games & Puzzles have yet appeared, but already this British monthly has taken a leading place in war-gaming circles. It is a slick-paper, copiously illustrated magazine presently 40 pages long, and it has a wider scope than any other magazine in the gaming field. A typical issue will include articles in such traditional games as poker and mancala, through an account of children's games, to regular columns on Go and Diplomacy, numerous competitions, and fad games such as Chutzpah.

The Diplomacy column, written by Albion editor Don Turnbull, is presently exploring issue by issue the best opening strategies for the seven Powers. Italy's precarious situation is discussed in the October 1972 issue, and Turnbull recommends an Italo-Austrian alliance against Turkey.

Although games of American origin hold a large part of the British market, indigenous games unfamiliar to Americans are also discussed. Games Guild, apparently the biggest British game producer, advertises numerous games including a soccer simulation, a space war game called 4000 AD, and a game for budding James Bonds called Contraband.

The November issue leads off with a discussion of the Godfather Game, already notorious in this country and marketed there by Games Guild. David Pritchard explains it for British readers - although, if Arthur Conan Doyle can be trusted, Sherlock Holmes was already fighting the Mafia in London almost a century ago. Strategy is discussed - bookmaking and loan sharking pay well, extortion and bootlegging not so well. Only the "clean vices" are included - no drugs, prostitution, or pornography.

I have recently become the US agent for Games & Puzzles - a convenience designed to get around the dollar-to-pound switch. Games & Puzzles is available at \$9.00 (by surface mail) or \$12.00 (by air) per year from John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Canadian readers should pay by a postal money order payable in US dollars.

PTOLEMAIC POLITICS

This term I teach a "physics for poets" course at Brooklyn College's downtown campus. Among the topics covered is the rise, dominance, and downfall of the earth-centered universe hypothesized by ancient astronomers and put in its final form in the 2nd century by Claudius Ptolemaios. Ptolemy, as he is generally called, designed a wheels-within-wheels universe, in which the sun, the moon, the planets, and the stars went around the earth in complicated combinations of circles.

Since this theory corresponds in no way to reality, discrepancies became noticeable all through the middle ages. But by that time Ptolemy had reached a position of authority second only to the bible, and people who called attention to discrepancies between his theory and observation were silenced by mere appeal to his book. In extreme cases, such as that of Giordano Bruno in 1600, they were burned at the stake.

Between Galileo's observations and Kepler's calculations, the Ptolemaic theory fell in the early 17th century. However, the authority of traditional religious bodies (including but not limited to the Roman Catholic Church) kept Ptolemaic astronomy on the curriculum for many years later. It was not until 1835 that the Roman Catholic Church formally abandoned its championship of Ptolemy.

Just prior to my class the room is in the charge of an earnest young man from the Political Science Department, who is teaching an elementary course in American political theory. Political Science, it appears, is still in its Ptolemaic stage. When he leaves, the board is filled with topics from constitutional law, and with all the concepts familiar from a dozen dull civics courses - "balance of power", "checks and balances", "judicial independence", "due process of law", and various freedoms - speech, press, assembly, petition for the redress of grievances, and the rest of

it.

Such concepts, of course, bear very little relationship to the way in which this country is actually ruled. Although the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches are treated theoretically as equals, in fact the first of these exercises virtually complete domination over the other two. The formal, "Ptolemaic" theory of American government does not recognize political parties, the Cabinet, the media, the congressional committee structure, or that vastly powerful, unelected, and irresistible oligarchy variously called "the Establishment", "the Military-Industrial Complex", "Wall Street", or "the Insiders".

Just as with Ptolemaic astronomy, Ptolemaic politics gives people an incorrect view of the world. We have seen many tragedies result from this fact. Young people who have been taught Ptolemaic platitudes about freedom of speech, assembly, and petition for redress of grievances have thus obtained the notion that they can go out and demonstrate against the war or racism. When they do so, they get shot or gassed - and then they become highly indignant about this violation of their "rights". Ptolemaic politics, as taught in our high schools and colleges, is responsible for this. If people like my colleague taught instead about the way this country actually is governed, rather than about unrealistic abstractions in a centuries-old document, their students would be less likely to throw their lives away. It is eminently clear that the individual has no rights he can successfully assert against the Establishment or the government which it controls.

Whether we approve or disapprove of this fact is unimportant. I have no doubt that, four centuries ago, there were astronomers with an emotional attachment to the Ptolemaic universe, who saw something new and uncomfortable in the views of Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler. Their personal feelings did not make the new astronomy any less real. There are people who today object to the power of the Establishment. They even try to fight it through "Ptolemaic" means as outlined in a Constitution as relevant to modern politics as Ptolemy is to modern astronomy. They overlook the fact that anyone they elect through this means is either already controlled by the Establishment (Kennedy), or can be co-opted by it (Johnson), or assassinated by it (you know who), or made to look ridiculous by its media (Abzug, Morse, McGovern).

1971EC - PRESS RELEASES

HERETHEREANDEVERYWHERE (SOMEWHERE): Gleefully the children of the Middle earth play. Like their parents, they too have nothing to hide, or be afraid of. Joyfully all is very happy. But then one day, Sorun Sorun came to the land.

In the land of the Herbits, they were about to throw a party in the honor of nothing (Herbits don't need a reason to throw a party.) To this party Hasha Hisha, or is it Hisha Hasha?, was invited. But as the party started Hasha was nowhere to be found. Never the less the Herbits were having a wild old time. Swing to and fro, dancing, joking and all other fun like things.

Lastly about 2 hours before the party was to brake up, Hasha arrived.!!! At last the guest of honor was there, and all the Herbits gathered around to listen and take part in all that Hasha had to bring them.

Small Baggies, the Herbit that had brought Hasha to the party was very pleased with how everything was turning out. But as he went away to the JOHN, Robots Alone and Done came upon the scene.

The Herbits were taken by surprise and ran in all directions. Yelling as they went, "THE BOOGIE MAN IS HERE". The Robots Alone and Done asked a small boy, bout the size of a small cat where they could

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

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find a man by the name of Hasha. The small boy, by name of Frito (to claim fame later in this story) told the men of steel that Hasha had in fact been there, but alas he had departed as fast as he had arrived, and where he was now was any one's guess.

OVERUNDERSIDE (DIZZY): While in the bathroom Small Baggies heard all that was going on outside. Yelling to his friend, Hasha, and pointing to the JOHN, Hasha ran. Jumping in Hasha heard a FLUSHHHHHHHH and down and down he went, where to no one knows, but on another journey through the gutters of the world.

PHILLY (BANGS): Robert Abalone today found his way to the city of brotherly love and found himself some brotherly love. At the house of Bangs, he met Leslie Tapscott. Thus we have the answer to who Bangs LT. but then we come up with another one for now, and that is Was anything done UNDER Leslie. Rumors have it that people feel very free when under L. Tapscott, and that she is very Graut Dark, which is a Lipsion term for NOT BAD AT ALL.

WOODMERE, LONG ISLAND (from the offices of Kinney, Lipschwitz & Bor-ingman): We are upset about the fact that Mr. Barents has stopped sending in press releases, and that someone else is sending in press releases from Mr. Barents' countries. We feel that no one should be permitted to impose their views on another player's creations. But someone, who can spell, is sending in Barentsian releases. We would like to see an end to this. We do not wish GRAUSTARK to get a reputation for this, especially after the way they checked with official Phumphan sources after Mr. Barents sent in Phumphan press releases.

CYOR CORS, POLLUTIDAR (URRP): The Horib village of sssSs, located on the muddy banks of the SsSSss River, was astonished recently by a strange disturbance in the waters that flow slowly past their huts. The normally placid waters of the SsSSss rumbled and gurgled, and then a huge spout of water shot twenty feet into the air. In it was a fat little Dutch Russian Turk, according to Horib veterans of the campaign on the Outer Crust, who have become expert in distinguishing the appearance and palatibility of the various Outer Crust nations. Before the Horibs could grab him for the usual purposes, the Outer Cruster swallowed a handful of pills and floated off into the air. When last seen, he was being pursued by three thipdars and a tredon.

BOTTOMLESS PLUNGEHOLE, MEROAKIA (IDUNNO): Emerging from his swim, Robert of Abalone heard a voice calling "Frito lives!" He decided to stop to investigate.

"Who's Frito?" he shouted.

"Frito lives!"

"Where does he live?"

"Frito lives!"

"Who are you?"

"Frito lives!"

"Are you Frito?"

"Frito lives!"

Robert of Abalone became tired of this conversation. He ordered grenades thrown into the passage from whence the voice had come.

There was a dull explosion. After a few minutes came the call:

"Frito dies!"

MASONOPOLIS, PHUMPHA (JUNKS): At a press conference, Umberto the Last announced the beginning of the Fourth Annual Phumphan-Liechtensteinian War and Frisbee Competition.

Q: Umberto, what are the major goals of this war?

A: Phumpha's goal is to free the people of Liechtenstein from themselves. It is a well known fact that Liechtenstein is incapable of ruling itself. Thus we must destroy the Liechtensteinian government. Our motto will be 'Liechtenstein for Phumphans'.

Q: Why is this war being started?

A: This war is being started because of Liechtenstein's refusal to comply with Article 6 of the treaty ending the First Annual Phumphan-Liechtensteinian War and Frisbee Competition.

Q: What does that treaty say?

A: It states that every year, Liechtenstein will provide Phumpha a pretext for war.

Q: Who will be in charge of the war?

A: Let me remind all of you who are ready to run to Beaucaillon to place bets, that the Phumphan Seekay has dropped to -3.2 to the dollar. I will be in charge of the army. The Green Count, who flew 69 successful kamikazi flights in the last war, will be in charge of the air effort. Since we don't have a navy since the Mr. Bubbles sank, there will be no one in charge of the Navy. The Grand Rabbi of Chelm will head the chaplains.

Q: How extensive is Phumpha's air force?

A: We have six pterodons, seven paper airplanes, six passenger pigeons, twenty-six dodos, and a partridge. The partridge will not be used, since it insists on staying in its pear tree until Christmas.

Q: There are rumors that Herbert Halfwit, leader of Liechtenstein, has had an operation that has raised his IQ twenty-four points.

A: Yes, our secret service, the Searlet Pumpernickel, reports that Herbert now has an IQ of twenty-three. This will not affect the war, however, since he has left the Sea-Whose-Name-We-All-Know-And-Love, and will take over the war effort. This should drastically affect Liechtensteinian morale, as everyone knows that he is actually the leading force behind the late nation of Phoney Baloney.

Q: If Phumpha wins the war, will there be any penalties that Liechtenstein will have to pay?

A: Yes. We will insist that they take Happy Half Acres.

Q: What about Naomi?

A: You'll find out as soon as I do.

BEAUCUILLON (JUNKS): Trading on the Fourth Annual Phumphan-Liechtensteinian War and Frisbee Competition opened today. Confusion reigned, as no one was sure how to figure odds with worse-than-worthless money, and with inept commanders, the likes of which have not been seen since the Balkan War of 1888. Count d'Avino, the eminence gris of Beaucaillon, was observed turning plus gris, while the court of the Turkish Empire in Exile threatened first to join the war on the side of Phumpha, then on the side of Liechtenstein. Ambassador Pike was heard to make a few jokes about 'Poles against Poles'. Count Oblowoff said that if the present Russian regime were to join the war, one could feel confident of the other side winning.

The matter was still unsettled at 2:13 when Duke Cosimo suspended trading on the war, stating that "There are some things that man was not meant to know." When asked what those things were, the Count refused to say anything further.

MIDDLE EARTH (IDUNNO): Frito don't live here no more.

Y, PHUMPHA (NOT): Why why why Y? Why, why not Y? Why, Why not Why Y? Why, why not Y? Why, why not-

Get that lunatic off the transmitter. Offer him some Sterno.

MEROAKIA, PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): Balzac Bronchitis was granted an exclusive interview with Sophia Septimus VIII, while she engaged in her hobby of throwing serfs down the Bottomless Plungehole.

"Madam, it is known that it is only due to your sacrifice of thousands of serfs that Phumpha was saved."

"It's the Underground. They claim I'm oppressing the peasantry. Why, I give them the best swill that you can buy with seekays. You can't buy better clothes at the Salvation Army. What more do they want? But

the Underground is trying to get rid of me, and I must act in self defense. Goodbye Ulther," she said, throwing an aged peasant down the Bottomless Plungehole, then stopped to wipe away a tear.

LONDON (IDUNNO): His Majesty's Government had Col. Pickering of the 42nd Regiment of Foot explain the maneuvers that restored Spain to the Dominion of Great Britain!

"The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain. This naturally causes floods. The French position washed away in the flood, and we attacked them under cover of rain. It was almost a hurricane."

In the back, a dowager whispered to her friend, "In Hartford, Heatherford, and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly happen."

A young girl ran into the conference room. "Sit down, Elizabeth," said Col. Pickering!

"How kind of you to let me come," she said.

A heavy-set man stood up. "Now, once again, where does it rain?"

"On the plain! On the plain!"

"And where's that blasted plain?"

"In Spain! In Spain!"

"I see. The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

"I think you've got it."

"The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

"By George, you've got it. Now, if you will excuse me," said Pickering, looking at his pocket watch, "I'm seeing Shaw's Pygmalion tonight."

IRISH FREE STATE (JUNKS): The rain in Spain may stay mainly on the plain, but the precipitation in Portugal pelts primarily on the plateau.

WOODMERE, LONG ISLAND (from the Office of Kinney, Lipschultz & Bor-ingman): We have noticed that since the exposure of the Boardman-Barents hoax a number of months ago, the press releases from 'Mr. Barents' have become legible, showing that he realizes it is no longer possible to conceal his true identity.

However, we wish to contact Mr. Boardman (or Barents, or Blake) for discussion of a profitable 'deal'!

We have been negotiating with the CIA for a month now, and have offered them a new code, certified unbreakable. After twenty-seven days of testing, six nervous breakdowns, two suicides, and one case of a young man giving birth, they have decided to buy the code.

The code is, of course, based on the 'Barents' press releases in GRAUSTARK and FREEDONIA. We wish to discuss with the writer of these press releases sale of all rights to these codes, and possibly a job in our cryptography section. We have been trying to analyze the writings found near Darwin, Australia, and believe that Mr. Boardman-Barents-Blake has the uncultured mentality necessary to this work!

KOARSAR, POLLUTIDAR (URRP): Angry accusations were traded in the Committee on Preparedness for War and Dinner concerning the progress of the war against the Outer Crust. The Gosha of the Xexot city of Hurbi-Hurbi claimed that a second front in Spain "dangerously weakens the attack potential, drawing strength away from the Russian front." Lord the Greasy One, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Food Procurement, replied that operations against Russia were proceeding so well that a second front was feasible. "We have found a passage through the crust, from the Inner Crust land of Sari to an Outer-Crust location called Cro-Magnon. There is even evidence that this passage was used, approximately four million sleeps ago. Cro-Magnon is located in an Outer Crust land called France, and already our forces have overwhelmed them. Even on the Outer Crust the French cuisine is highly esteemed, and now we too will have an opportunity to sample it." His words were greeted with great enthusiasm by the Committee, which then adjourned to a brontosaurus barbecue hosted by the Thurian delegation.

GRANDE CASINO, BEAUCOUILLON (URRP): The brief suspension in trading on war was ended today, as a new computerized system of figuring odds went into effect. Odds in the Phumpha-Liechtenstein war were quoted as 50-1 against Phumpha, and 100-1 against Liechtenstein. "Utter Confusion" was cited at 1-50. In other wars, Pollutidar was an odds-on favorite against both Russia and France, while Turkey's chances were trading at 500 Beaucouillon gold ducats against one Phumphan seekay.

ZOOLAND (BOAST): Lately rumors have been floating around as to What Herb Barents. These rumors must be put to rest. Herbert Owen Barents is well and living in this world some where. Though some people would argue that he is out of this world and yet others would say that it is a bad dream. If the truth to his real identity ever got out the world would...

CLASSROOM (THOUGHT FOR THE DAY): Between any two points there lies a third point, and somewhere in there is Herb Barents.

MICHIGAN (MOW): Rumors have been flying through out this state for some time that there is a Herb Barents Fan Club. The Rumors are in fact true! Steve Langs and Jim Pulsipher, have started one up. So far no one wants to join!

PINEREST (INSANE): It is not true that Herb Barents is insane. The rest of the world is., that is if there is a rest of the world! The more I think of it, the more I'm sure that Herb Barents has made this whole thing up! Next time you pray please remember that Herb Barents needs your love and understanding. Not only that but he could use some of your money.

BROKELYN (SCOPE): It is not true that John Boardman and Herb Barents are the same. Herb Barents, is Bangs Tapscott, who is married to Leslie, with little tapscotts running in and out of the offices of the United Rabble Rousing Press.

ICELAND (COLD): Rumors are flying again to the where abouts of the Dutch Boy. This famous person has long since gone from the scene but where did he go? It seems that the good Queen of England had him out away for her private use.

But, alas you can't keep a good Boy down, and the Dutch Boy has flown the coop. He is now known as the Flying Dutchie Boy.

It has been known for some time that the Queen of England did like wierd things, and with the reports that the FDB gives us we now know it. It seems that the Queen did not like anything that was natural, but instead went in for way out unnatural things that are too groos to mention, but one of them has to do with apomen, Hornj, and other far out wierd creatures that the Queen has kept, and bred for her own use.

SHIRE (JRRT): We last saw our hero going down the drain, but also as things would have it he has risen to the occasion again! He has gotten himself out of the gutter into the mainstream of life. He is once again full of mission (though others say it is something else) and starting on his way. We pick it up from there.

Hasha has been walking for a couple of miles along the stream when low and behold he runs into Aqua Lung. After awakening from the crash they exchange words.

"Aqua, you old..."

"Hasha, your still..."

"Like man it has been some time, I left you..."

"I saw you leave, man where did..."

"What was it like..."

"Did you get what..."

Finally as they found out about each other they left for the big city.

POLLUTIDAR (URRP): A Mahar named Wun-Wing-Long reported the fate of the fat little Turkish Dutch Russian who escaped from the Horibs by air. A trodon seized him, but pursued by two thipdars it dropped him into a geyser in Zoram. He apparently sunk out of sight in the underground stream.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"In any society the tactics of a privileged order are always the same tactics. Declare, in the first place, that the demand is impossible, that its time for translation into statute has not yet come; then, when it is clear that there is an urgency about it, say that the time is coming but that this is not yet the time; then when an angry clamour surrounds the demand, insist that you cannot yield to violence; and when finally you are driven to yield, say that it is because you have been intellectually convinced that the perspective of events has changed." - Harold Laski

*

Until recently, the poorly designed game Dynasty had been the only simulation of civil administration around. But now Prof. Richard D. Duke of the Environmental Simulation Laboratory at the University of Michigan has come out with a computerized game called Metropolis. (New York Times, 20 November 1972) The game deals with the administration of a town, and players take the roles of Politicians, Administrators, and Speculators. (I wonder how this game would go in New York City, where often the same person fills all three roles simultaneously.) "The professor envisions a time when citizens will be presented with simple games on important public issues to show them what is involved, and a time when officials, before making key decisions, will play through realistic games showing what could result from their choices."

No Geminis Need Apply. Or so might read the sign outside Woburn Abbey, home of the Duke of Bedford. The Duchess, it seems, is a Gemini, and she doesn't want any others on the staff because they might clash. (New Statesman, 14 July 1972)

*

The number of people turned off by Tweedledick and Tweedle-George approached record heights this year. According to James Wechsler in the New York Post of 16 November 1972, the percentage of eligible voters who actually vote has been dropping steadily. It was 63.2% in 1960, 62.1% in 1964, and 60.7% in 1968. This year it plunged to 55% - the lowest percentage since 1948.

And there was good reason for it, too. Samuel J. Archibald of the Fair Campaign Practices Committee said that "Americans were apparently accepting dirty politics as a way of life." (New York Times, 20 November 1972) There were 25% more complaints in this line this year than there were in 1968, itself not a year noted for political cleanliness.

America isn't the only country where people have stopped knocking themselves out for this nonsense. Czechoslovakia also has "widespread apathy and resentment". (New York Times, 16 November 1972) In both countries the high hopes of a few years ago have been dashed by the government, and now people are retreating into private concerns. In both countries the government is unsure how to proceed to get people more actively on its side.

America's campuses are reverting to the past to escape a present with little to recommend it. An article by Steven V. Roberts in the New York Times of 16 November 1972 describes the University of Southern California's annual "Troy Week" - a week of pep rallies and other rah-rah activity prior to the big football game with U. C. L. A. U. S. C. was always a rah-rah college even during the 1960's, and it is now leading the return to the apathy that prevailed on campuses in the previous decade.

Next will come panty raids, goldfish-swallowing competitions, and marathon dancing. After all, no one was ever shot doing any of this stuff.

*

Remember Wernher von Braun? Now that President Nixon is withdrawing from the Moon, he has gone into the business of planning birth control in

India. Although the project plans TV programs, von Braun doesn't want them on prime time. "I think also entertainment programs would be broadcast during this time of the day to prevent people in rural areas from going to bed too early." (New York Post, 26 October 1972)

"Well, you know, Don, if we're elected, we'll end this war in six months." - Richard M. Nixon to Representative Donald Riegler (Rep., Mich.) in 1968. Quoted, New York Post, 14 October 1972

"Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar,
"All good Artichokes stand up and holler!"

Even if the traditional rah-rah college returns, no such cheers will be heard at Scottsdale Community College in Arizona. The results of a student election which picked the artichoke as the school mascot, and pink and white as the colors, was voided in Superior Court. (New York Times, 3 September 1972) The student body president protested that "the artichoke was chosen as a nonaggressive symbol and also showed the students' preference for academics over athletics."

U. S. C., mentioned a few lines back thataway, is not entirely a rah-rah college though. It is currently offering a 12-week crash course for unemployed aerospace engineers left out of work by the current recession. A computerized game based on services for the city of "Apex" has been designed to retrain them in urban planning. (Helen Koblin, Los Angeles Free Press, 29 September 1972)

Sergeant Sexton's Lonely Prisoners' Club Band is in financial troubles, it seems. A fund was set up by some residents of Warren, Michigan, to help American prisoners in Vietnam, and was named after a local POW who was released a year ago. Now, it seems, the fund is \$1110.58 in debt and has not yet helped one prisoner. The debt is mainly due to a January fund appeal by mail, which took in less than the cost of the mailing. (New York Times, 8 October 1972)

GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is published on alternate Saturdays by John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Subscriptions are 8 issues for \$1.00 in the US and Canada, and 5 issues for \$1.00 or 12 for £1.00 overseas. Back issues as available are 12 issues for \$1.00 or 24 for £1.00. No new games are presently being formed. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

HERB BARENTS, 157 State St., Zeeland, Mich. 49464: In BOAST #20 I have let the world know that Larry Peery had ripped me off in a game. That is when he called for Winter and Spring moves together and when only one person responded he put them out anyway. This was in direct violation of Edi Birsan's ruling on this, of which Peery had asked Edi to rule on and said HE WOULD ABIDE by this.

Since then, I have sent him three letters, very much in use of some four letter words, but never once calling Peery a name, just his GMing. In one I wrote that I was going to resign, the second I took back my resignation. The third I showed him that there were 480 different combinations that could have come up and that he should not have asked for them together.

Soon after I was notified that I was kicked out of the game. Not for my protest, or trying to get the game under a new GM, but for the four letter words, of which the worse was God damn, used once.

Now today (7-11-72) he has refunded the unused portion of the game fee, from a game I did not drop!...I have since almost lost all hope that Peery is in fact sane.

[As the full record of his speculations and idiocies becomes apparent, it is obvious that Diplomacy fandom is going to have to do something about Larry Peery. The man has utterly no sense of ethical or financial responsibility. He has tried to drive out of Diplomacy fandom some of its most valuable members, and has bilked fans of sizable sums of money. His private Diplomacy club, "the International Diplomacy Association", serves as a vehicle for his stupidities; for details see Bob Johnson's letter in GRAUSTARK #275, p. 7. Are there any ideas on how he can be isolated from Diplomacy fandom? A general boycott perhaps, followed after a judicious interval by a secondary boycott against those who still remain in contact with him?]

JOHN HENDRY, 17 Price Rd., Peabody, Mass. 01460: A couple of questions: 1. Does the standby get me into any opening in those games which have standby openings? [A stand-by is taken on for a specific game, but if another game runs out of stand-bys he may be called on.] 2. How close to the front of the list, if any, am I in standby? [Each player who signs on as a stand-by will be informed, and status will also be published regularly in GRAUSTARK.] 3. Although it may be none of my business (sorry if I'm out of line), do you make any money off publishing? [No.] 4. Just out of curiosity, what does the money paid go to? [Postage, overwhelmingly.] 5. How much work do you do in publishing GRAUSTARK? [I haven't kept an exact account, but it must come to between 4 and 6 hours a week.] 6. Do you know of any novice games besides those in Xenogonic and Liaisons Dangereuses? [Not at present, though I will publicize such games if Gamesmasters let me know.]

BOB LIPTON, McKeen Hall, Box 360, Lafayette College, Easton, Penn. 18042: For your information, Happy Half Acres was awarded to Phumpha by the Treaty of St. Trianon, to punish Phumpha for joining the Central Powers in October 1918. Crankshaw cites this as one of the factors that led to the strike in Kiel.

JOHN HENDRY: John, you and Bob Johnson are slightly mistaken as regards the IDA. In the first place, according to the IDA membership list as of 7/10/72, Johnson was not listed. In the 2nd place, since John Boyer took over editorship of the IDA's 'zine, Diplomacy Review, it has come out bi-monthly, on schedule, and well done. In the 3rd place, you are letting personal prejudice towards Larry Peery bias your opinion since the IDA is truly democratic - anyone can run for any office, and anyone can take over any office by entering and winning an election, which is determined in a vote count by John McCallum, an impartial 3rd party. [Who is so "impartial" that he does not include Chris Schleicher's Atlantis in his 'zine listings because Atlantis prints TDA games!]

GRAUSTARK #278

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U. S. A.



F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

"The average American is just like the child in the family." - Richard M. Nixon, New York Times, 10 November 1972

Yes, daddy!

Richard L. Hull
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